



Utah Commission
on Criminal and
Juvenile Justice

FOR THE Record

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Volume 1, Number 1

Summer 2001

Utah's Challenge to Do the Write Thing

"I've always been taught that 'sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt you.' Well, that is a lie," wrote Jessica Barrett in her winning essay for Utah's Challenge to Do the Write Thing.

Jessica's entry was chosen from 25 thought-provoking writings submitted to the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice by students attending Utah's alternative middle schools. Do the Write Thing is a national event that invites 7th and 8th grade students to put in writing how violence has affected their lives and what can be done to prevent violence in their community.

"The Board chose to focus on alternative school students because these kids rarely have the opportunity to compete in such events, but they probably have more to say on the issue of violence," said Ann Floor, Utah's Do the Write Thing Chairperson.

Board members reviewed all entries and selected six state finalists. Their

writings were then forwarded to Utah's VIP Judges, chaired by Third District Juvenile Court Judge Andrew Valdez.

"Reading the words from these child contestants not only increased my grief for the kids, but also my commitment to help the scores of children who deserve a better childhood and life," said Judge Valdez.

Also serving on the VIP Judges

Panel were Roma Downey, Touched by an Angel; Rep. Jim Matheson; Jason M. Smith, Assistant Editor for Salt Lake Magazine; and Richard Smith, Utah Jazz Assistant Director for Scouting.

Jessica's winning essay discussed violence in the home and at school. "Verbal violence broke down my

self-esteem and made me feel insecure," she said of the teasing she received at school. "However, I now realize that I am not powerless to stop violence now," she wrote.

Jessica attends an alternative class at Mount Logan Middle School taught by Kelli Schiller. Jessica, her mother and her teacher will be sent to Washington, D.C. this summer to attend the National Recognition Week Activities.

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First Runner-up Margarito Sanchez submitted a poem entitled *Life is Rough All Over*. One stanza reads:

*Life is rough all over—
but I want something more
I am willing to work for it
if someone will help me open the door.*

**Second Runner-Up
Sheila Bates** wrote

"Not only was I raised that violence was ok but now I am serving time because I acted out on what I thought was ok to do. It hurts!" Sheila is currently living in a group home and goes on to say that she is now learning how to feel better about herself.

Both Margarito and Sheila attend an alternative classroom at Centennial Middle School taught by Cheryl Thompson.

The top 15 entries were published and students were honored at a luncheon in Salt Lake City. Marion Mattingly, National Program Director, attended and commended the youth for their participation and insight.

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“Club Drugs” Pose a Dangerous New Threat to Utah’s Young Adult Population

Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council Schedules Summit to Address Issue

The ecstasy in ecstasy fades, but the brain damage—and death—do not. While teen use of traditional drugs such as marijuana and cocaine is down, the number of young people trying, and dying from, ecstasy (MDMA) and other “Club Drugs” is rising. Emergency room mentions for selected club drugs have increased more than 1000 percent in the last few years. These drugs are taking the state by storm, hitting high schools, neighborhoods and clubs.

“Club Drugs” is a generic term for a number of illicit drugs, primarily syn-

CLUB DRUG SUMMIT — AUGUST 10TH & 11TH

Because Utah is dealing with a dramatic increase in the incidence of use and devastating effects of “Club Drugs,” the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council and the Utah Council on Crime Prevention will host a Club Drug Summit August 10 and 11.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

E-Center
3200 South Decker Lake Drive
(2200 West)
Salt Lake City, Utah
8:00 a.m. – Registration
9:00 a.m.- 4 p.m. — Conference

This is special session held for professionals to evaluate policy issues.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

Hillcrest Jr. High School
126 East 5300 South
Murray, Utah
8:00 a.m. – Registration
8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. — Main Conference

This session is planned primarily to educate citizens about club drugs and provide information for helping their children to stay away from them.

thetic, that are most commonly encountered at nightclubs and “raves.” The drugs include MDMA, Ketamine, GHB, GBL, Rohypnol, LSD, PCP, and to a lesser extent, cocaine and psilocybin mushrooms. The drugs have gained popularity due to the false perception that they are not as harmful, nor as

addictive, as mainstream drugs such as heroin.

One of the dangers associated with this emerging drug market is that drug quality may vary significantly, and substitute drugs are often sold when suppliers are unable to provide the drug currently in demand.

Utah Sentencing Commission Tenure Renewed

The Utah Legislature recently renewed the Utah Sentencing Commission for another 10 years. SB 10 Sunset Reauthorization, among other things, extended the Sentencing Commission until 2012. Having had its very existence and mission reviewed and consequently renewed, the Commission is recommitted to providing the best possible recommendations in sentencing policy to all three branches of government.

In the coming years, Utah will continue to face critical decisions concerning adult and juvenile sentencing and corrections. Policymakers deserve sound, rational, experienced, and research-based recommendations when making these future decisions. The

Sentencing Commission’s diverse and balanced membership, its shared research division with CCJJ, and its established partnerships all allow it to be the ideal entity to take the lead in state sentencing policies. Effective sentencing policy must first protect the public while also considering limited resources and still be fair. This requires smart sentencing, not just tough sentencing.

In order to address its primary duty of establishing sentencing guidelines, the Sentencing Commission is reconvening its Guidelines Revision Subcommittee. This group will closely review the 1998 Adult Sentencing & Release Guidelines currently in place. In doing so, it will explore the possibility of a new sentencing matrix for substance abuse and DUI offenders. The Juvenile Justice Subcommittee is currently considering certain improvements to the Juvenile Sentencing Guidelines following an extensive

evaluation and it will also be reviewing Utah’s Serious Youth Offender Law. The Judicial Council’s Race & Ethnic Fairness Task Force has made a number of specific recommendations to the Sentencing Commission. These are currently being examined and implemented in order to “increase equity in criminal sentencing,” one of the Commission’s statutory duties.

The development and study of intermediate sanctions and alternatives to prison for non-violent offenders is an ongoing priority for the Sentencing Commission. Day reporting centers, drug courts, community correctional centers are examples. Other priority issues include the continued attempt to improve Utah’s current hate crimes sentencing enhancement, earlier identification of sexually violent predators, and a better sentencing system response to mentally ill and mentally retarded offenders.

What About Extraditions and Governor's Warrants?

Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

The Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) is in a transition period regarding the extradition of fugitives. For the past few years, the extraditions coordinator has used private transport companies to return fugitives to Utah to face prosecution. Recent incidents with these companies have raised liability concerns and the use of private transport has been suspended.

While drafting a Request for Proposal (RFP) in which training and safety standards are outlined, CCJJ learned that Congress was debating S. 1898, the Interstate Transportation of Dangerous Criminals Act of 2000 or Jeanna's Act (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query>). The bill requires the U.S. Attorney General to establish minimum training and safety standards for companies engaged in the business of transporting violent prisoners in interstate commerce; it sets out statutory guidelines on what the standards should address; and, it provides civil penalties for the violation of the regulations. Congress passed Jeanna's Act on December 7, 2000 and the president signed the bill into law. Standards set as a result of this bill should assist in reestablishing customer confidence in the private transport industry. We are currently waiting for the Department of Justice to issue the guidelines.

Historically, CCJJ has made arrangements for approximately 300 transports annually. That number has grown to approximately 500 transports in the last fiscal year. In this same year, CCJJ's extradition budget was cut. With tremendous

cooperation, professionalism and patience by Utah's law enforcement agencies, CCJJ has successfully completed over 200 extraditions in the first six months of this fiscal year. Finally, Governor Leavitt has provided hope for some budget relief in his FY2002 Budget Recommendations to the Legislature. His recommendation includes a \$36,000 supplemental appropriation and a \$50,000 ongoing appropriation to be added to CCJJ's budget.

The following questions and answers will help to explain the process for transporting fugitives back to Utah.

How do I schedule an extradition?

The process starts by placing a telephone call to Jo Lynn Kruse at CCJJ, (801) 538-1031. All pertinent information will be taken to accomplish the transport. Please be prepared with the following information: fugitive's name (including any alias), the name of the county or district attorney contacted regarding the status of the case, DOB, SSN, whether an escape risk, history of assault on an officer, if any, and any health problems. In addition, name, address and telephone number of the facility where the fugitive is being held. A copy of the warrant must be faxed to CCJJ, (801) 538-1024.

Who will transport the fugitive?

After receipt of the information, a determination will be made on the most cost effective means to transport the fugitive to Utah. There may be a request from CCJJ for two officers from the requesting agency to drive or fly for the transport. Depending on the circumstances, the DPS plane or Federal Marshal Service may be used to do the transport. If the Federal Marshal accepts the transport, the fugitive must have a PPD (TB) test. The Marshals will need ten days from the date of the RESULTS to

complete the transport. Once determination is made on the means of transport, you will be contacted. This generally will be the same day as the request.

What expenses will be reimbursed?

If two officers from the requesting agency drive or fly, CCJJ will reimburse per diem, gas and lodging, all at the state rate. If the officers fly, CCJJ will book their flight through State Travel. A car will also be reserved through State Travel. Please note, there is no need to take additional insurance on the rental car. The rental agencies should not be offering this insurance. If a claim is made, Risk Management will handle the case. In addition, you must gas the car prior to returning it to the airport.

Will private transport companies be used in the future?

CCJJ is currently working on an RFP to be issued for private transport. If companies are able to meet the training standards identified in the RFP, CCJJ will enter into a contract for their services.

What about the Northwest Shuttle System?

CCJJ encourages all law enforcement agencies to join the Northwest Shuttle System. This is a FREE system with the only requirement being each agency have a transport team to move fugitives. For additional information on the shuttle system, please call Doreen, 538-1057.

Now You Can Recognize Us by Our New Look!





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Information Technology and Criminal Justice

The Commission has statutory responsibility to coordinate the development of information systems within the criminal justice community. This is important because deficiencies in criminal justice data and data standards hamper the administration of justice from initial arrest/citation to final disposition or incarceration. In addition, the research derived from these information systems helps the legislature and other policy makers make more informed decisions.

Utah continues to progress on creating a coordinated data collection methodology to improve the quality and completeness of the criminal and juvenile justice information systems.

CCJJ approaches these tasks by using grant funding, relying on the expertise of the technical sub-committee and participating in technology development projects. Membership of the technology subcommittee is by appointment of the Commission and currently includes the Directors of Information Technology from the Department of Public Safety, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Department of Corrections; the Directors of Research from Division of Youth Corrections and CCJJ; the State Data Architect; the Executive Director of the Utah Prosecution Council; and representatives from local law enforcement. This group is key to providing a forum for discussing policy issues related to data integration. In addition, each year this group approves the information technology

grant-funding plan. Current grants funded through the Technology Subcommittee total more than 1.9 million dollars in fiscal year 2001 and include funding the Department of Public Safety to help provide critical criminal justice information to law enforcement during the 2002 Winter Olympics.

This year the major focus of the subcommittee is on updating and improving the technology planning efforts originally begun in 1994. This will include a technology summit being planned for July and will culminate with a new record improvement plan by January of 2002.

If you would like more information of technology money available through the Commission, please call Jennifer Hemenway at (801) 538-1055.